

February 16, 2015

Virginia's Ron Hicks Named Endorsed Candidate for GER

Virginia Goes "Grand"



Fredericksburg 875 has announced that Virginia's own Ron Hicks has just been named the new Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler for 2015-2016. He was the unanimous choice of Grand Lodge Advisory during a recent conference call to name a replacement for Eric Mulholland of Michigan, who was diagnosed with a serious illness and had to withdraw. Ron was in Tucson, AZ, this week to meet with Advisory,

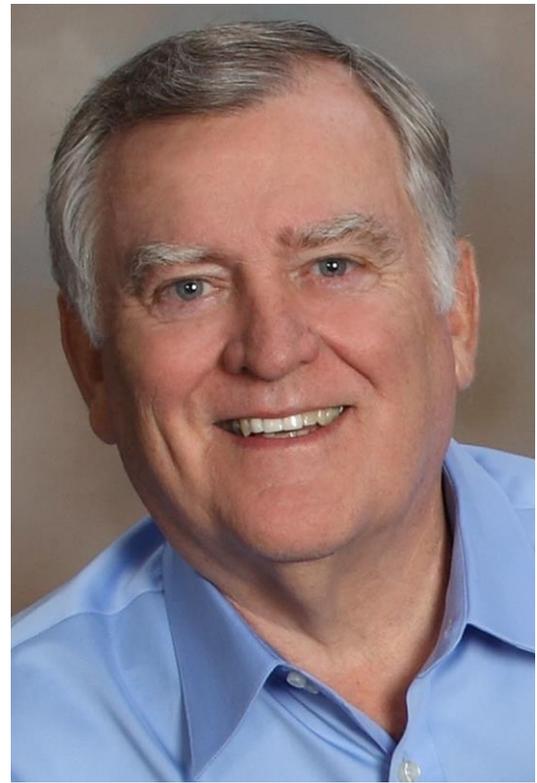
discuss Grand Lodge programs and present his own Program for the year.

Ron, who will be Virginia's first GER in almost 60 years, will stand for election in July at the Elks National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Immediately following the Convention, he and Nancy will begin their year-long travels as our Elks National President and First Lady, representing our Order and the State of Virginia. The only other Virginia GERs were John L. Walker, from Roanoke, in 1955; Robert S. Barrett, from Alexandria, in 1944; and Fred Harper, from Lynchburg, in 1917.

Unfortunately, Ron is getting a late start and will only have four months to organize his "Elect A Grand Exalted Ruler" Committee, complete fundraising efforts, prepare for the Convention and the Convention Celebration, the GER Grand Reception, and all of the other

planning that must go into a successful Campaign. Ray Dameron will be serving as Ron's Administrative Aide for the year.

Ron and members of the Fredericksburg Lodge will be holding the initial "EAGER" meeting on Friday, February 20th, at 7:00 at the Fredericksburg Elks Lodge. The purpose of the meeting will be to organize the Committee, establish the various sub-committees needed for the Campaign, and discuss ideas for Fundraising, the Celebration, Reception and other topics. Eric and his wife, Barb, and other Michigan and Area 4 Elks, have offered their assistance in supporting Ron's Campaign.



Any Virginia Elk interested in being involved with the Campaign is invited to attend the meeting on February 20th, whether you plan to go to the National Convention, or not. Realizing the time and travel constraints due to this late notice, if you would like to help with the Campaign, but cannot attend the meeting on the 20th, please contact Ray Dameron (540)898-4175, ray.dameron@aol.com or Ron at (540)371-2505, rhicks46@aol.com, prior to the 20th and advise of your interest and suggestions.

A follow-up meeting is planned for Charlottesville on March 14th after the Training Session for those who are not able to attend the meeting on February 20th. Don Netschke is working on putting together the Charlottesville meeting (540)868-0380, denets357@gmail.com.

Ron's Theme for the year: "Elks Pride – Community Focus."